Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for liquid-liquid extraction of copper from an aqueous solution containing ~~a large amount~~ more than about 40 g/l of sulphates the method comprising feeding an organic extraction solution and said aqueous solution into a plurality of extraction stages , said extraction solution containing an extractant, ~~in liquid-liquid extraction~~, ~~characterized in that~~ extracting copper in said extraction stages from said aqueous solution in the presence of said organic extraction solution by raising the viscosity of ~~an~~ said organic extraction solution ~~is adjusted within the~~ to a range of 3 -11 cP and ~~that~~ dispersing the aqueous solution into drops in the extraction solution by adjusting the volumetric ratio of the extraction solution ~~and an~~ to the aqueous solution ~~in an extraction mixture~~ to between 0.7 - 1.0~~, whereby the aqueous solution is dispersed into drops in the extraction solution~~.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the viscosity of the extraction solution is raised by raising the content of ~~an~~ the extractant in the extraction solution.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the viscosity of the extraction solution is raised by regulating the extractant content of the extraction solution in the range of 15 - 70 vol. %.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ that wherein the ratio ~~(O/A)~~ between the organic solution and the aqueous solution ~~coming to~~ fed into the extraction ~~stage~~ stages ~~from outside~~ is regulated in the range of 0.15 -1.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in~~ that wherein said ~~in treating an~~ aqueous ~~solutions with~~ solution has a copper content ~~of maximum~~ up to about 2 g/l, and the viscosity of the extraction solution is raised by adjusting the content of the extractant in the extraction solution to the range of 15 - 25 vol. %.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in~~ that wherein the ~~external pumping~~ ratio of the extraction solution and the aqueous solution fed into the extraction stages adjusted to the range of 0.2 - 0.5 and the ~~corresponding external pumping~~ ratio between a stripped copper electrolyte and the aqueous solution of the extraction is adjusted to the range of 0.08 – [[0.02]] 0.2.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in~~ that ~~in treating an~~ said aqueous solution ~~with~~ has a copper content of 2 - 4 g/l, and the viscosity of the extraction solution is raised by adjusting the content of the extractant in the extraction solution to the range of 15 - 30 vol. %.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 7, ~~characterized in~~ that wherein the ~~external pumping~~ ratio of the extraction solution and the aqueous solution fed into the extraction stages is adjusted to the range of 0.3 - 0.7 and the ~~corresponding external pumping~~

ratio between ~~the~~ a stripped copper electrolyte and the aqueous solution of the extraction is adjusted to the range of 0.15 - 0.25.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that in treating an~~ said aqueous solution ~~with~~ has a copper content of 4 - 8 g/l, and the viscosity of the extraction solution is raised by adjusting the content of the extractant in the extraction solution to the range of 25 - 50 vol. %.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ the ~~external pumping~~ ratio of the extraction solution and the aqueous solution fed into the extraction stages is adjusted to the range of 0.4 - 0.8 and the ~~corresponding external pumping~~ ratio between ~~the~~ a stripped copper electrolyte and the aqueous solution of the extraction is adjusted to the range of 0.25 - 0.50.

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that in treating an~~ said aqueous solution ~~with~~ has a copper content of over 8 g/l, and the viscosity of the extraction solution is raised by adjusting the content of the extractant in the extraction solution to the range of 40 - 70 vol. %.

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ the ~~external pumping~~ ratio of the extraction solution and the aqueous solution fed into the extraction stages is adjusted within the range of 1 - 4 and the ~~corresponding external pumping~~ ratio between ~~the~~ a stripped copper electrolyte and the aqueous solution of the extraction is adjusted within the range of 0.8 - 3.

13. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the viscosity of the extraction solution is raised by using ~~alifatic~~ aliphatic hydrocarbons~~,~~ ~~kerosenes,~~ with a viscosity of 2.7 - 3.2 cP when measured at ambient temperature, as diluting agent for the extraction solution.

14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the viscosity of the extraction solution is raised by using aromatic hydrocarbons~~,~~ ~~kerosenes,~~ with a viscosity of about 3 cP when measured at ambient temperature, as diluting agent for the extraction solution.

15. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the above~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the viscosity of the extraction solution is raised by using a mixture of ~~alifatic~~ aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, with a viscosity of minimum 2.7 cP when measured at ambient temperature, as diluting agent for the extraction solution.

16. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sulphate content of the aqueous solution fed to solvent extraction is a minimum of 40g/l.

17. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the above~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the extracting solutions flow through each ~~stage of the~~ extraction ~~equipment~~ stage at essentially the same time.

18. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the above~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the method further includes washing and stripping stages and the

extracting solutions flow through the washing and stripping stages ~~of the equipment~~ more slowly than the actual extracting stages.